

The Resurrection of the Two Witnesses: The Third Sign of Jonah

11: 7-13

DIG: What happens to these two witnesses? Why? What results from their death and resurrection? How does the world react to their death? Their resurrection?

REFLECT: What does it say, when non-believers gloat over your misfortune or misery? How do you think they want you to react? How should you react? What difference does it make? Who is watching?

In order to gain further religious allegiance of the people of the world, **the antichrist** will attack the **two witnesses** who, because of **their** supernatural abilities, will cause chaos for the inhabitants of the earth during the first half of the *Great Tribulation*.

Like all the **prophets** before them, these **two** end-time prophets will frustrate **their** enemies. In invulnerable and unstoppable for the duration of their **God**-empowered ministries, they will be immune to death. Yet when **ADONAI** says, "Mission accomplished," **He** will lift **His** hand of protection from **them** and **their** enemies will be permitted to kill **them**. **Now when they have finished their testimony, the antichrist, or the beast that comes up from the Abyss (9:1, 9:2, 9:11, here, 17:8, 20:1 and 20:3), will attack them and overpower and kill them.** Although **he** is a man born of woman, **the antichrist** will be energized by the demonic power coming up from the **Abyss** or **Satan himself**. To the great joy and relief of the sinful world, **the antichrist** will finally **overpower and kill the two witnesses (11:7)**. Along with **his** supposed resurrection, the killing of the **two witnesses** will provide another reason for the world to worship **him**.²⁹⁹

Perhaps to show **his** new found power, **the antichrist** will not allow the **bodies** of the **two witnesses** to be buried. After **their** deaths, **their bodies** will be contemptuously left to lie as rotting corpses in the street (11:8). This will further pollute the **great City of Jerusalem, which** will spiritually be equivalent to **Sodom and Egypt** at that time (**Jeremiah 23:14 Ezekiel 16:49**). **Their** spiritual condition will be like that of **Sodom**, where sexual sin and misuse of people were rife, and **Edom**, where false religion, hatred of the one true **God** and anti-Semitism will flourish.³⁰⁰ In the ancient world, exposing an enemy's dead body was

the ultimate way of dishonoring him. **God** would not allow the Israelites to do such a thing (**Deuteronomy 21:22-23**). Like **Christ**, the **two witnesses** will return to **the same great City** to die **where their Lord was crucified**. This suggests that **Jerusalem** will be the focus of **their** ministry as it was **their Lord's**.

The gloating of the happy spectators will know no bounds. **For three and a half days men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial (11:9)**. The **two witnesses** preached for **three and a half years**, and then were put to death for **three and a half days**. They had been hated like no one else. The world would celebrate, "Free at last!" The news of **their** death would spread instantaneously throughout the world, carried by satellite to television screens, computers and public places everywhere. Believers who will attempt to give **their bodies** a decent burial will be driven off (**Psalm 79:2-3**).

The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth (**11:10**). The celebration will be like Christmas or Hannukah. The anti-Christmas will be led by the **antichrist**, who will solidify his position as an international hero. His triumph will be complete: "Joy to the world, **the Lord is dead!**" Men and women, who once celebrated the birth of **Yeshua** in a superficial way, will then celebrate His death with gusto. No more will they have to hide in caves from His wrath. No more angels will be flying through the air condemning them. The stinging scorpions and the frightening demon-locusts will be just a bad memory that will never torment them again. This is the only rejoicing that will be seen on **the earth** in the entire book of **Revelation**, which is a statement of their spiritual condition.

The visual media will continue their daily vigil at the scene of triumph, bringing the spectacle onto everyone in the world. The broadcast will feed twenty-four hours a day, but they will not be able to get enough of the coverage. It will be an orgy of celebration; a feeding frenzy of festivities. **But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them (Ezekiel 37:9-10)**. The drunken onlookers will watch in horror as **their bodies** begin to stir. The world will gaze in disbelief as **the two prophets** slowly rise to **their feet (11:11)**. The mob around **them** will shrink back in amazement. Cameras will zoom in on the faces of the **two witnesses** and four piercing eyes glare back out to millions of television screens, computer monitors and cell phones all over the world. And as with one voice, **the inhabitants of the earth** will scream: "Noooooooooo!"

Not only will the viewers see the **two witnesses** rise to **their feet**, but **they** will also hear **a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here."** Having finally died, **Messiah's two witnesses** will then be alive forever, resurrected just like **their Savior**. **Their** service on the earth will be done and **they** can return to **His** presence. **And** not unlike **Yeshua (Acts 1:9-11)**, **they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on** in terror (**11:12**). The Rapture will be repeated for these **two witnesses**. But this time it will not be done **in the twinkling of an eye (1 Corinthians 15:52)**; instead, the whole world will watch **them** as they rise to **their feet**, and then rise to heaven. The Greek word for **looked on** is *theoreo*. It implies *a hypnotic stare*, and will strike terror into the most rebellious of **their enemies**. **Jesus** triumphed again. The **three and a half days** of celebration are about to be followed by another **three and a half** years of judgment, even more terrible than before.³⁰¹

We can learn a very valuable lesson from this account. **ADONAI** transforms tragic situations into triumphant events. Underdogs become overcomers. Weakness becomes strength. Overwhelming obstacles lead to glorious opportunities. Today, positive thinkers and motivational speakers try to inspire us to accomplish great things, embrace our potential, and achieve our personal goals - *all in our own strength*. Many leaders even within the body of **Messiah** advocate a life of success, health, wealth, and personal happiness. Yet when we contrast this me-centered philosophy with the heroes of the Bible, like David, Elijah, Gideon, **Esther**, or **Ruth**, who accomplished great things for **God** by **His** power, both the motivation and the outcome stand out in sharp contrast because *all the glory is His and not ours*.

So there will be no question as to cause-and-effect, **at that very hour there was a severe earthquake**, just as it happened at the resurrection of **Messiah (Matthew 28:2)**. The One the world had been mocking for **three and a half days** will demonstrate **His** power once again. As a glimpse of what is to come, **a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake**. The unbelieving world will be forced to superficially give **glory to the God of heaven (11:13)**, even though they had put **His two servants** to death. But their praise is not genuine and it will not last. In a short while **they** will curse the **name of God** once again as they experience **His** wrath (**16:11**). **The survivors are terrified** as they realize that they are about to see even greater judgments coming upon the earth.

Although the appearance of faith lasts only a short time for the unsaved of the earth, the resurrection of **the two witnesses** has a profound affect on the Jews of **Jerusalem**. This is the third **sign of Jonah (Luke 11:29-30)** to the nation of Isra'el. The first two, the resurrection of Lazarus (see my commentary on **the Life of Christ Ia - The Resurrection**

of Lazarus), and the resurrection of **Messiah** (see my commentary on **the Life of Christ Mc - The Women Took Spices to the Tomb**), had been rejected. However, this third sign of **Jonah** will be accepted by the Jewish generation of the Great Tribulation. It will lead to the national confession of their sin of the rejection of **Christ** (see **Ev - The Basis for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ**), which will, in turn, result in the Second Coming and the setting up of the millennial Kingdom.

John's vision of the **two witnesses** reveals that there will be times when the people of **God** will suffer setbacks, apparent defeats, and even tragedy. But **God's** holy ones can really never be defeated (see **Dc - I Will Give Power to My Two Witnesses and They Will Prophecy for 1,260 Days**), and it seems that they will do so once again before the coming of the messianic Kingdom. When we are weighed down by failure, or confused about the path we should take, when we feel discouraged or even defeated, we should recall this vision. The enemy's victory was not the final word. Hold on to your faith and do not lose hope under stressful circumstances. **The Lord** of history will vindicate **His** righteous ones.

*Lord, we count it a privilege to follow You in good times and bad. We surrender ourselves to You with the prayer of Your Son Jesus: **Not My will, Father, but Yours be done** (Luke 22:42).*³⁰²